

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A compact apparatus for forming strips of material suitable for use in packing, comprising:

a shredding mechanism device including a means for securing blanks operative to form material strips therefrom;

a conveyor having a perforated belt movable between an input position at which material strips from said shredder device are placed atop said perforated belt, and a discharge position where the material strips are discharged from said perforated belt; and

means for producing suction on the strips ~~located at or beyond said discharge position~~, whereby contaminants on the material strips are removed.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said means for producing suction comprises a suction housing; and

wherein said conveyor passes through said suction housing[[:]] and suction occurs below the strips.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the suction housing further comprises means for providing positive air flow above the strips.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the positive airflow and the suction are optimized to remove contaminants from the strips.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the suction housing interior further comprises a means for creating a vortex.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the means for creating a vortex comprises a vortex box.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the vortex box comprises generally parallel interior elements and generally rounded corners.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the vortex box further comprises a removable cover plate.

26. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the vortex box further comprises one or more fans, located at an upper portion of the suction housing whereby positive air pressure from the fans impinges the top of the strips.

27. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a shredding mechanism cover at least partially enclosing an output end of the shredding mechanism.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a means for producing suction force within the shredding mechanism.

29. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, where in the means for producing suction force within the shredding mechanism comprises one or more conduits connecting the means for producing suction on the strips.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said apparatus further includes means for spraying that has an electrical switching device for activating the means for spraying.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the electrical switching device further comprises a foot pedal.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A suction housing for cleaning objects on a conveyor, comprising:

a top portion;

a bottom portion having elongated elements and a rounded periphery;

means for producing positive air pressure on the top portion of a conveyor; and

means for producing suction ~~below the conveyor~~, whereby a vortex is created within the suction housing.

46. (Original) The suction housing of claim 45, wherein the means for producing negative air pressure is located so that the suction is below and generally orthogonal to the conveyor.

47. (Original) The suction housing of claim 45, wherein the conveyor is perforated.

48. (Cancelled)